

A PROPOSAL

49 For the more Effectual Improvement of the Channel and Harbour of DUBLIN: By JOSEPH BEAUMONT.

I. **W**HEREAS it is a great and known Defect, that the Channel of the River Liffy is not above Two Foot Deep at *Essex-Bridge* when the Tide is *Half Flood* at the Barr; the Consequence of which is, That no Ship of Burthen can have above One Hour to Ply in about the Custom-House Key, to the great Hindrance of Merchants, and of the Dispatch of Business.

It is Proposed by the Undertaker above-named, so to Mend the said Channel, that there shall be Six Foot Water at *Essex-Bridge* when the Tide is *Half Flood* at the Barr, whereby Ships of Burthen will have Six Hours Time to Ply Backwards and Forwards between the Custom-House Key, and a safe Harbour.

II. Whereas the Harbour of *Dublin* lies so much expos'd, that no Ship of Burthen can Ride secure in any part of it, either at High or Low Water.

The above Proposer doth likewise Undertake to make a Safe and Convenient Harbour, sufficient to contain *Three Hundred* Ships of Burthen, as Large as any that now can get into *Clanarf-Pool*, where they may Ride in full Shelter, from *Eight* to *Twelve Foot* low Water, together with a *Light-House* on each side, to Guide Ships safe over the Barr: And further, the said Undertaker will make it Appear, that in Process of Time, without any New Expence, not only the Harbour may become *Twelve Foot* Deep, in every part of it, at Low Water, but also that the Biggest Ship in that Harbour may come up at High Water to the Custom-House Key.

This Great Work, which will amount to the Sum of *Twelve Thousand Pounds*, the Undertaker has Divided into the Two Articles aforesaid, at *Six Thousand Pounds* each, because there are some Gentlemen his Friends, who will Enable him to perfect any one of them without desiring the least Sum from the *Ballast-Office*, before it is Finish'd: And to make the Payment thereof more easy to the City, if that Article should be Finish'd in less Time than the Undertaker Proposes, he will be Content with *Twelve Hundred Pounds* a Year, to commence from the Time he began on the Work, untill the Debt be paid.

The only Objection of any Weight that can possibly be rais'd against this Proposal, Appears to be; "That the *Ballast-Office* is already Employ'd in Clearing the Channel, and making an Harbour; in the former of which they seem not to be without some Hopes of Success, and consequently the making any Contract with the above Undertaker, might be an Hindrance to their present Proceedings.

To which may be Answered, with Humble Submission, *First*, That if so Necessary and Important a Work be by any Means Compleated, tho' by an Expence Five Times Larger than what is Demanded by the Proposer, this part of the Kingdom will be an Immence Gainer.

Secondly, From the present Way of Working by the *Ballast-Office*, I think it does not Appear that the Youngest Man, now Alive, can hope to see the End of it: Whereas by the Proposers Method, each Article will be perfected at farthest in *Five Years*, and he hopes much sooner.

Thirdly, Whatever Consequence the present Way of Working may have in a Great length of Time, and vast Expence, upon Clearing the Channel, yet the most Sanguine do not pretend to Hope it will be of any Use towards Mending the Harbour, particularly upon those most Useful Articles of safe Riding for Ships, either in Lowest or Highest Water, which is of much greater Importance, even than Mending the Channel.

The Works upon which the *Ballast-Office* are at present Employ'd, are, *First*, the *Baskets* or *Kisbes*, from the *Batchelors-Walk*, down the *North Side* of the Channel, Opposite to *Rings-End*; which indeed may be of Use, as I have said, in a long Course of Time, towards Deepening the Channel, as far as those *Kisbes* are lay'd, but cannot in the least affect the Remainder of it towards the Barr, which is above Three times as long.

The other Work is, That of certain Stakes fix'd in the *Sand*, on the *South-side*, from *Rings-End* to the *Perch* or *Buoy* on the Barr, which can never contribute any thing towards Mending the Channel, or Harbour, as the Proposer will at any time make Appear, and consequently, that with great Submission, to the Contrivers of this last Project, their Labour and Expence are entirely thrown away.

The Proposer notwithstanding any Article he shall enter into with the City, does not intend to hinder the *Ballast-Office* from Finishing what is already begun, or carrying on any New Work they shall think fit, only desires leave to go on in his own Way, at the Expence of his Friends with power to Raise what Ballast he pleases. But when the City shall be fully convinc'd that the Undertakers Method of Working is the only Way to be rely'd on, and shall consequently think it convenient to forbid their Work-Men, from proceeding any farther; that then the said *Ballast-Office* shall be oblig'd to Raise their Ballast for the remaining Term of the *Ten Years* then unexpir'd, in such places as the Undertaker shall direct, he paying all surplus Expence they shall be at, more than raising Common Ballast.